

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 EB-11 DRC-01 /169 W

----- 101966

R 271457Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5715

INFO USINT ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINTCAIRO

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 32849

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SA, UR

SUBJECT:FRENCH VIEW OF SAUDI-USSR RELATIONS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

REF: BAGHDAD 677; CAIRO 4202 (NOTAL; MOSCOW 16025

1. QUAI SAUDI DESK OFFICER COURTOIS EXPRESSED SKEPTICISM TO
EMBOFF ABOUT REPORTS COURTOIS SAID ORIGINATED IN THE BEIRUT
PRSS THAT THE SAUDIS INTEND TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS
WITH SOVIETS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THE DRAMATIC SPEED-UP IN
THE RATE OF POLITICAL CHANGE IN THE MIDDLE EAST SINCE THE OCTOBER
WAR AND ADMITTING THAT IN SUCH A SITUATION ANYTHING I POSSIBLE,
COURTOIS SAID HE BELIEVES FEISAL HAS TOO LONG A HISTORY OF
DEEPLY-FELT ANTI-COMMUNISM TO MAKE IT LIKELY THAT HE WOULD
BE WILLING YET TO GO AS FAR AS TO ESTABLISH RELATIONS. WERE
HE TO DO SO, HOWEVER, THE EFFECTS MIGHT BESUBSTANTIAL AS
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THE SMALL PERSIAN GULF STATES WOULD RAPIDLY WELCOME SOVIET

MISSIONS TO THEIR CAPITALS, THUS GIVING THE USSR GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENLARGED ECONOMIC, COMMERCIAL AND OTHER RELATIONS.

2. COMMENT WE JUDGE THAT THE FRENCH WOULD NOT BE HAPPY TOSEE THE USSR ESTABLISH RELATIONS WITH SAUDI ARABIA BUT DOUBT THAT THEY WOULD IN AY CASE BE IN A POSITION TO INFLUENCE THE COURSE OF EVENTS.
STONE

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NNN

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